

DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

news release

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

For Immediate Release June 9, 1975

McGarvey 202/343-5634

HUNTING OF MUSKOX IN ALASKA PROPOSED

Controlled hunting of muskox on Nunivak Island, Alaska, has been proposed by Interior's U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as one phase of a program to reduce the herd size to the carrying capacity of the winter range and halt the progressive deterioration of the unique environment. No more than 25 bull muskox would be taken in either the fall 1975 hunt or the spring season of 1976.

Public hearings will be held on this proposal on June 30, July 1, and July 2, 1975, at the times and places listed below:

DATE: June 30, 1975, 7:00 p.m.
PLACE: Z. J. Loussac Library
427 F Street
Anchorage, Alaska

DATE: July 2, 1975, 7:30 p.m.
PLACE: KVNA Building
Bethel, Alaska

DATE: July 1, 1975, 7:00 p.m.
PLACE: Wood Center
University of Alaska
Fairbanks, Alaska

The current muskox population on Nunivak Island is approximately 600. The island can only support about 400 animals. It is proposed to reduce the herd over several years by four methods: (1) transplants to other suitable ranges in cooperation with Alaska State authorities, (2) donations to zoos and museums, (3) permit hunting under joint supervision with State authorities, and (4) slaughter of excess animals not removed by the three foregoing methods.

An assessment of the environmental impact of this proposal has been made and is available for public inspection during business hours at Room 2024, Main Interior Building, 18th and C Streets, N.W., Washington, D.C. Call 202/343-2994 for admission. In Anchorage, Alaska, it can be seen at 813 D Street at the Fish and Wildlife Service Area Office. It is also available for inspection at the Clarence Rhode National Wildlife Range in Bethel, Alaska. Copies will be available upon request from the Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Washington, D.C., and the Alaska Area Director, Anchorage.

Persons wishing to make an oral presentation or submit their views in writing at either of these hearings should notify the Area Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 813 D Street, Anchorage, Alaska 99501, no less than five working days before the hearings.